

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0056] on page 18 of the specification, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the present invention, for each type of XML (or other type) dialect to be input to the EDI system, such as ANSI X12, UN EDIFACT, RosettaNet, CIDX, etc., a purchase order would be assigned a different format or document structure based on the particular XML dialect used by a particular company as submitted to the EDI. The virtual document system operates to pull data from each of those different types of purchase order XML formats, into a single ANSI X12 format for an ASN document or ASN message, or to some other format (e.g., UN EDIFACT) of a trading partner. As shown in Figure 8, for example, an ANSI X12 ASN message as a first target document ~~870~~ 890 is transferred the information stored for the "Document Type" variable of the virtual document, with that stored information being provided to the BSN_06_640 metadata element. That information is used to populate the corresponding data field of the ANSI X12 ASN message of a trading partner (the target). The value corresponding to the "Document Type" variable of the virtual document is pulled by the translator from the ZEIR metadata element of the Material Master List source document 820, as shown by the mappings to and from the virtual document 825 in Figure 8.

Please replace paragraph [0061] on pages 19 and 20 of the specification, with the following rewritten paragraph:

At run time, the translator parses the source document or message, such as the Materials Master List document ~~840~~ 820 shown in Figure 8, and then the virtual document is populated with values from the mapped metadata elements. For example, if ZEIR metadata element of the Materials Master List document 820 has a value of "13336" assigned to it, then that value is written into the

variable "Document No." of the virtual document. This writing of data may be made to a writable memory of the EDI system, such as a Random Access Memory or other type of writable memory device, as is known to those skilled in the art.

Please replace paragraph [0062] on page 20 of the specification, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Under control of the translator, values are written into the variables of the virtual document from the source data model in a data stream from the source data model to the target data model, in accordance with the mappings or links to and from the variables of the virtual document. For example, the value 13336 corresponding to the document number (obtained from the source document or message and as written into the corresponding Document No. variable of the virtual document) is provided as a value for the metadata element BIG_04_324 of an ANSI X12 Invoice corresponding to a target document or message 870.